

Strategic Thinking Assessment

Discover Your Career Acceleration Path in 5 Minutes

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Many high-performing professionals excel at their tasks but struggle to advance because they focus on completion instead of strategic impact. This assessment reveals whether you're caught in the tactical trap and shows your path forward.

Instructions: Select the response that best describes your current approach. Be honest—there are no wrong answers, only insights.

Assessment Questions

1. When starting a new project, your first thought is:

- ☐ A) How can I complete this efficiently and meet the deadline?
- ☐ B) Why are we doing this and how does it support our bigger goals?

2. In team meetings, you most often:

- ☐ A) Report on task completion and project status
- ☐ B) Share observations about patterns or improvement opportunities

3. When you hear "we've always done it this way," you:

- ☐ A) Accept it and focus on executing within the existing process
- ☐ B) Start questioning why and look for improvement opportunities

4. Your understanding of company strategic priorities:

- ☐ A) I know they exist but couldn't explain them in detail
- ☐ B) I can clearly articulate them and connect my work to these priorities

5. When your manager discusses company challenges, you:

- ☐ A) Listen but don't usually contribute to the conversation
- ☐ B) Ask questions to understand how these impact our team's work

6. You identify process improvements or strategic opportunities:

- ☐ A) Rarely (I'm focused on keeping up with current responsibilities)
- ☐ B) Frequently (I'm always looking for ways to create more value)

7. When presenting ideas to leadership, you:

- ☐ A) Rarely present ideas (I focus on executing what's assigned)
- ☐ B) Frame ideas around business impact and expected results

8. When updating others on your work, you:

- ☐ A) Report what tasks you've completed
 - ☐ B) Share the business impact and value created
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Your Results

Count your responses:

- **A responses:** ____
 - **B responses:** ____
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Your Strategic Thinking Profile

Mostly A's: Caught in the Tactical Trap

You're focused on execution, which may be limiting your career growth. You have reliable performance but need strategic thinking skills to advance.

What this means: You're likely seen as dependable but not necessarily promotable. Your excellent execution may be keeping you stuck.

Your next steps:

- Read the Strategic Thinking Blog Series starting with Part 1
- Begin asking "why" questions about your work's business impact
- Schedule a conversation with your manager about company priorities

Mostly B's: Strategic Thinking Leader

You demonstrate strong strategic thinking and likely have good organizational visibility. Focus on consistency and scaling your influence.

What this means: You're probably on leadership's radar with advancement potential. Your challenge is maintaining momentum.

Your next steps:

- Read Part 4 to ensure you're sustaining strategic impact
- Look for opportunities to mentor others in strategic thinking
- Consider high-visibility cross-functional projects

Mixed Results: Developing Strategic Thinker

You're transitioning from tactical to strategic thinking. You have some strong areas and others needing development.

What this means: You're making progress but need targeted development. Focus on areas where you selected mostly A responses.

Your next steps:

- Read the complete Strategic Thinking series (Parts 1-4)
 - Download the Strategic Task Mapping Template
 - Implement one strategic habit weekly
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Immediate Action Plan

This Week:

- Read relevant blog posts based on your results
- Identify one process that could benefit from strategic thinking
- Schedule time with your manager to discuss priorities

This Month:

- Present one strategic initiative using business impact framework
 - Build one relationship outside your immediate team
 - Start weekly 15-minute strategic thinking sessions
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Ready to Accelerate Your Growth?

Mary K. Trostmann-Tully advanced from individual contributor to CIO by developing strategic thinking capabilities. She now helps high-performing professionals break through career plateaus and position themselves for advancement.

Get the Strategic Thinking Blog Series: impactful-futures.com/blog

Ready for personalized support? Contact Mary K. at maryk@impactful-futures.com

Remember: Strategic thinking is a learnable skill. The difference between where you are and where you want to be isn't about working harder—it's about working more strategically.

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